



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - May 23, 2002**

- ***In the West***, dry, breezy conditions in ***southern California and the Four Corners States*** are maintaining heavy irrigation demands and stressing rangeland. Meanwhile across the ***interior Northwest***, recent soil moisture improvements are aiding rain-fed small grains.
- ***On the Plains***, very cool weather is returning to ***northern areas***, bringing renewed emergence and developmental delays for summer crops. Lingering snow showers on the ***northern High Plains*** are providing some additional drought relief, but extreme dryness persists in most other portions of the ***High Plains region*** from ***western Nebraska to western Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers and thunderstorms are developing across ***Iowa*** and surrounding areas, but remain north and west of the wettest areas in the ***Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys***. Nearly a week of dry weather has allowed for a gradual resumption of corn and soybean planting from ***Missouri to Pennsylvania***.
- ***In the South***, soil moisture remains limited from ***southern Texas to the southern Atlantic region***, despite recent showers. Elsewhere in the region, conditions remain mostly favorable for pasture growth, winter wheat maturation, and summer crop development.

**Outlook:** A slow-moving cold front will bring an increase in shower activity to the ***Corn Belt and central Plains***. By the weekend, the threat of showers will shift into the ***Mid-Atlantic and New England States*** and the ***southern Plains***. Much of the ***Southeast*** will remain dry, although periods of rain are possible in ***southern Florida***. In addition, the potential exists for a coastal storm to affect the ***Atlantic Seaboard*** next week. In the ***West***, precipitation will return to the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern Rockies*** over the weekend, while the ***Southwest*** will remain dry. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for May 28 - June 1 calls for above-normal temperatures for much of the nation, except for near-normal temperatures in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***Gulf Coast States***, and below-normal readings in the ***Carolinas***. Above-normal precipitation is expected for the ***Atlantic Coast States and Pacific Northwest***, while below-normal precipitation is forecast across the ***northern and central Rockies, northern Plains, Mississippi Valley, and Great Lakes region***.

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